

**MINUTES – Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area**  
**9:00 a.m., Thursday July 16, 2009 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room**

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 9:17 AM.

**Members Present:**

Mr. David Hull (Port Authority)  
Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)  
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)  
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)  
Mr. John “Hawk” Martin (Pleasure Boat)  
Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo)  
Ms. Robin Blanchfield (Coastal Commission)  
Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA)  
Mr. Jon Placido (USCG Group Humboldt Bay)

**Others Present:**

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR)  
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)  
Ms. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)  
Lt. Rob Starr (USCG)  
Lt. Roger Barr (USCG)  
MST1 Peter Zazzali (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)  
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)  
MST2 Mike Nosbaum (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)  
Mr. David Ammerman (USACOE)  
Mr. Scott Owen (USF&WS)  
Mr. Troy Nicolini (NWS)  
Ms. Diane Ross (HCSO – OES)  
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)  
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Brusco Tug and Barge)  
Capt. Steve Monk (HSU)  
Mr. Dave Nakamura (HSU Center Activities)

1. **Introductions were made.**
2. **There were no members sworn in.**
3. **Floor was opened to public comment.** No public comment.
4. **Consideration of Approval of Minutes for the meeting of March 19, 2009.** Heading date corrected to March 19<sup>th</sup>. Item 10f corrected to clarify former Evergreen Pulp Mill. Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo) motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot) seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Consideration of Approval of Minutes for the meeting of May 21, 2009.** Item 9c corrected to remove a sentence. Item 9f corrected to remove a sentence. Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo) motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot) seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Consideration of forming a subcommittee on debris management.** Removed from agenda.

**Presentation by National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office Eureka.** Mr. Troy Nicolini (NWS) gave a presentation regarding wave terminology. National Weather Service proposes to drop the terms “swell” and “wind waves” from their weather forecast and use the term “waves”. Example would be “waves northwest 10 feet at 8 seconds”. The Northcoast area is at the center of wave activity as the pacific high moves in and the valley heat moves out. The change in terminology would be a test program in the Eureka area set to begin in approximately 60 days, but definitely after the sport salmon season. Mr. Nicolini stated that he has been talking with many local fishermen and as the albacore bait boats come into port and their response has been favorable. Public outreach will be the key to the program. Mr. Nicolini will be talking to user groups such as the Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association, Humboldt Area Tuna Club, Humboldt Saltwater Anglers, Humboldt Yacht Club and others. Capt. Tim Petrusha and Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilots) as well as Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo) and Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Brusco Tug and Barge) all stated that what are most important to

them are the height, period and direction of the waves, and the wind speed and direction. If anyone has any comments or concerns please contact Mr. Troy Nicolini at [Troy.Nicolini@noaa.gov](mailto:Troy.Nicolini@noaa.gov) or you may call 707.443.0574 ext 223.

7. **Consideration of Best Maritime Practices for Small Boat Activities.** Mr. Hawk Martin (Pleasure Boat Representative) reported on the status of compiling Best Maritime Practices for small boaters in Humboldt Bay. He has met with Steve Monk and Dave Nakamura and talked with Ken Bates to develop ideas. Mr. Martin gave a description of the user groups to be included in the BMPs. Those groups are recreational motorized boats, sailing vessels, canoes and kayaks, sculls and rowers, and commercial fishing vessels. It is envisioned that each user group will have their own set of BMPs. Safety guidelines are still being gathered and reviewed and status reports will be given to the committee. Signage and public access to the information is also of concern. Mr. Martin would like to see all BMPs on the Harbor Safety Committee website as soon as available along with downloadable information like the water trails map. Mr. Dave Nakamura (HSU Center Activities) showed the membership a draft of the water trails map stating that it was 98% complete.
8. **Harbor Safety Plan Revisions/Updates for 2009/10.** Discussion was held on the changes to the Harbor Safety Plan and additional changes were made. Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot) made a motion to approve the 2009/10 HSP with the changes discussed. Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo) seconded the motion. Discussion was held in regards to whether or not the committee had a quorum. Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority) read from the by-laws.

*"Section 4 Quorum"*

*"In order for a meeting to take place, a quorum of members or their alternates consisting of six (6) membership categories, shall be present. Should a quorum not be present, the Committee can proceed as a committee of the whole, take public testimony, receive input on any agenda item duly noticed, but cannot take action on any item."*

It was noted that seven (7) membership categories were present. Mr. David Hull (Port Authority) repeated the motion and the second. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Consideration of changing the September meeting date.** The Harbor Safety Committee decided that the September meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009 beginning at 0900.

**10. Status/Updates**

- a. **Federal Channel Maintenance.** Mr. David Hull (Port Authority) reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were here but now they are gone. Dredge Yaquina stopped in to get fuel but departed the same day.
- b. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR) reported that Fort Bragg had an oil spill. One of Abernathy vessels "Tango" sank causing a spill. It was estimated that approximately 26 gallons of product were recovered. Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA) asked if the vessel was in the navigation channel. Mr. Mike Nosbaum (USCG) stated that the vessel was up the river beyond the navigational channel.
- c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR) reported that the sub-committee had not met since last meeting. The San Francisco Bay area committee has been active and they are finding that their biggest problem is solid waste disposal. California Integrated Waste Management Board may have money to assist with disposal but the State of California is talking about elimination of this department. Santa Clara Water District held a summit regarding vessel disposal and Redwood City has removed approximately 150 vessels. There are State funds available to remove recreational vessels but only \$500,000 worth of funding. Mr. Dayton and USCG have been encouraging Del Norte

and Mendocino to participate in the sub-committee but with the budget crisis, it is difficult to get them to travel.

- d. **Boater Safety.** Mr. Dave Nakamura (HSU Center Activities) informed the committee that the State of California has a vessel turn in program in the Senate waiting approval. This program would allow recreational boaters to turn in their vessels to the local boating safety law enforcement agency without penalty. This Bill has been on the table before, however there is no funding available. With the State's budget crisis, it may be months before we hear the fate of this Bill.
- e. **Navigational Aids.** No report
- f. **Ship Traffic.** Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo) reported that the PG&E ship will be arriving later this summer. A log barge is due to arrive next month. All ports are hoping that traffic will increase when the economy picks up.
- g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA) reported that he spoke with Eric Moore of NRT6. Humboldt Bay is still on their schedule this year to survey the north side of the north jetty.
- h. **Port Security.** Mr. David Hull (Port Authority) reported that Mr. Steve Edinger, OSPR Administrator, decided that Harbor Safety Committees should not include port security into their plans. Mr. Edinger has stated that since Port Security is covered by USCG and others there is no need for the Harbor Safety Committees to include this in their plans. This section will be removed from the Status and Updates.
- i. **TWIC.** No Report
- j. **Potential Bay Projects.** No Report

## 11. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** No report
- b. **USACOE.** Mr. David Ammerman (USACOE) reported that the Corps of Engineers has been working on a permit with the City of Eureka to replace the fuel lines at Englund Marine.
- c. **OHS.** No report
- d. **CPB.** No report
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm (OSPR) reported that Mr. Steve Edinger was confirmed on July 8<sup>th</sup> as OSPR Administrator. The State is now taking off, as furlough days, the first three Friday of each month. If there is a spill or other emergency, they of course will respond and furlough days will be taken at another time. All contracts are currently on hold. The Harbor District has been approved to provide secretarial services under a local assistance grant, but the contracts are not being released out of Sacramento until the state has a budget. The Harbor District should be able to back bill their time and expenses as of July 01, 2009. Included in the contract is the website design and implementation. Once the Harbor District receives the contract they will be able to work with a web designer and their ideas will be brought back to the committee for approval before going public. Currently agendas, minutes, the Harbor Safety Plan and vacancies are listed on the OSPR website. At the next meeting the vacancy for the environmental/tribal membership will be announced. Also noted is the vacancy for Labor.

Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR) reported that Ms. Vicki Frey of the DFG would like to request USCG attendance at an upcoming wave energy meeting to be held on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the

Freshwater Tissue Mill conference room. An invite was sent to Clare Linder at USCG Aids to Navigation but if there is any other USCG personnel would like to attend, please do so. Also on August 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting to discuss changes to regulations regarding how OSROS conduct drills and exercises.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** No report
  - g. **NOAA.** We now have an El Nino. Upwelling has stopped and we may have more precipitation.
  - h. **Coastal Commission.** No report
  - i. **Member Reports.** No report
12. **Other.** Capt Leroy Zerlang (Brusco Tug and Barge) informed the committee that traffic along the Eureka Inner Reach is getting congested. The ferry boat "Madaket" is constantly blowing their whistle trying to get kayakers out of the way and most people do not know what the whistle means. Public education is needed to avoid disaster.

**The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser  
Port of Humboldt Bay